2. Dhanbad-Patherdih-Sudamdih railway line (Eastern Rly)

(a) At Lodna isolation trench and cement grouting through boreholes have been done to protect the track.

(b) At Bagdigi and Bararee mines isolation trench and blanketing with Matti have been done as preventive measures against advance of fire.

(c) At Lodna-south Lodna fire, a scheme to deal with fires which will protect the railway line is under implementation at an estimated cost of Rs 3.34 crores.

(d) At Sudamdih eastern edge XI/XII, XIV/XIVA seams have been blanketed to control the fire advancing towards the railway track.

(3) Adra-Gomoh Railway Line (S.E Rly)

(i) At Gopulichak Colliery isolation trench upto XVI seam floor has been made in addition to the surface sealing to control the progress of fire.

Target Utilisation of Pots of Smeltor Plant, Angul

5572. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state what are the reasons for which the NALCO would not achieve the target of utilising of all 480 pots of Smeltor Plant of Angul till March, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (DR.(SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): NALCO could not utilise all of its 480 pots in the Smeltor Plant at Angul earlier to March, 2000 because of various factors: a shortage of power, till the 6th unit of the captive power plant was commissioned in 1994; constraints in the anode plant, till the debottlenecking in the carbon plant was completed during 1996-97. Over the years, more pots were brought into operation as NALCO improved its capacity to handle huge quantity of hot metal by addition of its billet, sow and strip casting facilities.

Revision of Rates of Royalty on Lignite

5573. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat have represented to streamline the existing system of fising rates of royalty;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government propose for setting up of a statutory body of experts for revision of rates of royalty; and